all neighbouring States. Training and laboratory support was given to all hospitals. The situation is under control now.

No shortage of medicine, including Meningitis vaccine has been reported from Delhi. The vaccine is presently manufactured locally as well as imported into the country.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Farmers Trained by CTRI

3641. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers trained by Central Tobacco Research Institute during the last year;

(b) whether CTRI has given any importance to training of farmers of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether it is a fact that the CTRI has not given sufficient importance to extending the full benefits or research in tobacco to middle level tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the steps proposed by Government to assist farmers through the CTRI in 2006-07; and

(e) the reasons for low emphasis on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) A total of 3,937 farmers were trained by Central Tobacco Research Institute during 2005-06.

(b) Yes, Sir. A total of 91 tobacco training programmes were organized by CTRI and its Research Stations in Andhra Pradesh during 2005-06.

(c) No. Sir. Sufficient importance has been given to middle level farmers in Andhra Pradesh to extent the benefits of research conducted by CTRI. The farmers have been provided seed of improved varieties and training in crop management technologies. In addition, frontline demonstrations, radio talks, exhibitions and Kisan Melas were also conducted during the year 2005-06.

(d) It is proposed to supply seed of improved varieties, tobacco seedlings and provide training to farmers by CTRI during 2006-07.

(e) Sufficient emphasis is being given for the training of farmers by the CTRI, within the available resources.

Claim of Bonus by Workers of Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore

3642. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Tribunal at Chennai had passed an award on the dispute relating to claim of bonus by the workers of the Sugarcane Breeding Institute at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same award has covered the demand for regularization in service of the workforce of the same institute; and

(c) if so, the action initiated by Government to implement the said award?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A Writ Petition No. 32214 has been filed before Hon'ble High Court Chennai & Hon'ble court has granted stay in the matter.

Increasing Fertilizer Consumption

3643. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizers in the country is less than 90 Kg.;

(b) the reasons for such low rate of fertilizer consumption;

(c) the steps taken to increase fertilizer application to increase productivity; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to promote new farming practices to increase yield?